

# **Government Oversight Committee**

## **Subcommittee Analysis**

### **1. *Privatization of State Liquor Stores* -- Lundby, Wieck, Courtney, Baudler**

A number of Committee members have expressed concerns involving the appropriate role of the State in the liquor business. There have been some prospective private distributors that would like to run the liquor business in Iowa. Lynn M. Walding, Administrator, Alcohol Beverages Division of the Department of Commerce has provided a historical overview of warehousing and distribution functions, including the sale and delivery of liquors to retailers and the resumption of operations by the state in 2004 after its contractor filed bankruptcy. Mr. Walding has discussed a number of issues associated with the state-controlled operations, including budgetary savings and inmate labor and associated issues including transition pains, security, inmate wages, and public impressions created by the media. He stated that the Division would be preparing a new Request for Proposal (RFP) seeking bids for all or part of the functions now performed by the Division. The RFP has not been provided to the Committee at this point.

### **2. *Transfer Administrative Responsibilities for Pesticides and Fertilizers From Department of Agriculture To Department of Natural Resources* -- Lundby, Alons, Wieck**

The Subcommittee was established to review the issue of administrative responsibilities for pesticides and fertilizers. Members of the Committee felt that DNR would be better suited to handle these administrative responsibilities now in the Department of Agriculture.

### **3. *Competitive Bidding* -- Lundby, Alons, Lensing, Baudler, Dvorsky**

The Subcommittee was established to review the State bidding practices for all contracts let by the Department of Administrative Services (DAS). The main issue was to assure the contract process was competitive and that Iowa companies and entities were provided notification of pending requests for proposals and allowed to provide bids and treated fairly in the process. There have been several discussions and legislation was introduced last session to give Iowa interests some preference when bidding with the State. DAS has been developing a website to provide information to prospective bidders.

4. ***Fleet Management*** -- Raecker, Wieck, Brunkhorst, Baudler, Lensing

The Subcommittee was established to review inquiries regarding vehicle ownership by state agencies, the sharing of best practices, finding more efficiencies in the number of vehicles in the fleet, and public safety issues. The Department of Administrative Services (DAS) has provided updates regarding the Executive Branch fleet management operations. Dale Schroeder, Dispatcher indicated that the mission of fleet management is to provide transportation services for agencies which serve Iowa taxpayers and to enhance employee productivity. He characterized Fleet Management's current philosophy as having shifted under the Department of Administrative Services to more of a marketplace orientation, being customer-focused, making departments responsible for statutory compliance, and providing marketplace services relating to the state garage and motor pool. Mr. Schroeder contrasted this with a former philosophy under the Department of General Services emphasizing control of fleet size and insistence on compliance. Representatives from Regents institutions provided the Subcommittee with its model for fleet management and shared the best practices used by all Regents institutions. The Subcommittee has directed all fleet managers to work together, to share expertise and best practices for cost effectiveness and efficiencies and to reduce the number of underutilized vehicles.

5. ***Educational Examiners Board*** -- Lensing, Wendt, and others to be named

This Subcommittee was established to review the purpose of the Board and determine if the Board is meeting expectations or should be dissolved.

6. ***Regulatory Reform*** -- Wieck, Lundby, Dvorsky, Jenkins, Thomas

The Subcommittee was established to review regulatory requirements that would hamper business, local and State government, and others from carrying out and achieving success. Items raised included the availability and affordability of electricity and natural gas, and options available to entities facing potentially burdensome state report filing requirements. The Subcommittee could recommend legislation that would reduce regulatory burdens where warranted.

7. ***Ombudsman's List of Recommendations for legislative review and consideration.***

At the Committee's request, William Angrick, State Ombudsman, provided a list of issue and policy subjects suggested by his office for consideration by the Committee, including the adequacy and consistency of nursing home inspections and regulatory enforcement, patterns and causes of increased tort claims and lawsuit settlements and awards, the fiscal status of the child support recovery and collection program and the resulting impact on families, the needs of persons in correctional institutions and facilities who have a mental illness or a developmental disability, information relating to resident and inmate deaths in social service and correctional facilities, and the disproportionate incarceration of persons of color. The Subcommittee was established to review the subjects and make recommendations for possible legislative initiatives.